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21 August 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CONTENTS

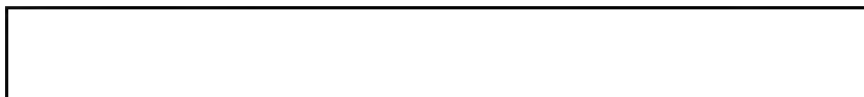
25X1



3. Israel-Syria: Repeated Syrian border attacks may draw some major Israeli retaliation. (Page 3)

4. Cuba: An official communiqué blames the US for recent attacks on Cuban industrial installations. (Page 4)

25X1



25X1

Approved For Release 2002/06/05 : CIA-RDP79T00975A007200130001-7

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2002/06/05 : CIA-RDP79T00975A007200130001-7



25X1

25X1

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*Israel-Syria: Israel is increasingly likely to undertake some major military actions in retaliation for repeated Syrian border attacks.

There is as yet no discernible evidence of Israeli preparations for such action. However, the Israelis require little advance movement in view of the short distance between their military bases and the Syrian border.

Any ground strike by Israeli forces probably would be on a larger scale than the last previous Israeli raid against Syria--an effort by a reinforced battalion on 16-17 March 1962. That raid met stiff resistance from the Syrians, who occupy high ground overlooking Israeli territory. An Israeli air strike against the Syrian positions is another possibility.

The Israeli cabinet has requested a meeting of the UN Security Council to consider "Syrian aggression." The Syrians killed two Israelis on the night of 19-20 August, and, according to the Israelis, Syrian MIG-17 fighters subsequently penetrated Israeli airspace.

25X1

21 Aug 63

DAILY BRIEF

3

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25X1

Cuba: Havana's strong reaction to the raids of 18 and 19 August on Cuban industrial installations may signal a sharper propaganda campaign against the US and possibly a new offensive in the UN.

The 20 August communiqué on the subject accused the US Government of responsibility and claimed that the raid proves again that the US has begun a plan of aggression. The communiqué declared that the Cuban Government "finds it necessary to decide what steps to take to assure the defense of the country." It warned world opinion of "the danger that this policy entails for peace less than a year after the October crisis."

The communiqué also accused the US of taking advantage of the more relaxed "international situation" accompanying the signing of the test-ban treaty and warned against underestimating the "solidarity of the Soviet Union" toward Cuba.

The communiqué restated the Cuban argument that tension can only be eliminated in the Caribbean area through acceptance of Castro's "Five Points." The "Five Points" were issued by Castro last October and have since received only nominal Soviet support. They call for the cessation of all US pressures against the Castro regime and evacuation of the US naval base.

Reference to the "Five Points" in this context suggests that the Cuban Government may be considering an appeal to the United Nations.

25X1

21 Aug 63

DAILY BRIEF

4

25X1

Approved For Release 2002/06/05 : CIA-RDP79T00975A007200130001-7

Approved For Release 2002/06/05 : CIA-RDP79T00975A007200130001-7

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